

MINUTES

NORTHERN GREAT PLAINS INVENTORY & MONITORING NETWORK BOARD

Conference Call
10-11 CDT June 23, 2006

Members Participating

Andy Banta
Paul Hedren
Carmen Thomson
Dan Licht

Members Absent

Linda Stoll

OFFICE UPDATE

Staff is moved in and functional in new office building. Some additional furniture is needed, and a postage machine (planned for FY 07)

SUMMER HIRING:

A STEP employee (Tim) has been hired as a computer assistant to create a data base of literature, and images, and continue with the web site design.

Dan has a cert for bio techs –GS-7. He plans to hire two term employees. The employees will be kept into FY 07 as we are counting on additional funding in FY 2007. Should our additional funds not come through, the bio-techs will be terminated, and any funding shortfalls will come out of another program area in I&M's budget. The bio tech's will work on: data mining, assist Marcia with NP Species data entries, assist parks with special projects and assist in the development of a monitoring plan

The paper work for the Admin Assistant term was sent to MWRO in the past week or so. The board agreed it would be more efficient to wait for permanent funding to hire an Administrative Assistant. It is hoped that we can recruit now and fill the position in early FY07; Andy will discuss this with Shirley Petersen.

Linda Stoll called Andy following the conference call, and reminded us that as far as is known NGP-I&M still has no approved Org. Chart so we cannot fill any positions.

SUMMER ACTIVITIES:

Marcia is working on NPSpecies certifications and plant lists

Joel is working on sampling protocols, a BADL project to determine prairie dog town size using satellite imagery and acquisition of historic aerial images.

Bob is conducting power analysis of vegetation data, with Amy, to determine sample size required for monitoring protocols.

Amy is working on the vegetation monitoring design as well as specific projects.

BUDGET

Dan indicates that the budget is in good shape with the possibility of \$5-10,000 un-committed at this time. Possible additional needs include furniture and travel funds for water experts, to assist in the development of the water monitoring protocols.

FUTURE FUNDING PROGNOSIS

Dan remains optimistic that our base funding will come through in FY 2007.

PHASE II draft

Dan has received little feedback for the new Monitoring draft. He has a conference call scheduled for Monday with the I&M Technical Committee.

BCP

Jill Hart of MORU has been assisting Dan in submitting data to the program with limited success. Carmen directed that Dan do the best that he can and not worry about the results at this point. (Per Linda, the NGP-I&M Core Operations will be evaluated with the MWRO, Feb 27-Mar 1).

UPDATE CHARTER

Andy reported that the Charter needs to be updated to reflect the change in the supervision role by the MWRO I&M Coordinator. Carmen indicated that only one paragraph needs changed. Andy will draft the change.

Action Items

Andy will discuss the possibility of recruiting for a permanent Administrative Assistant before we have permanent funding in hand.

Carmen will determine the status of NGP-I&M Organizational Chart approval

Andy will draft changes the NGP-I&M Charter to be approved by the Board and membership, per the existing charter.

Drafted by: Andy Banta

Drafted on: 6/23/2006

Finalized by: Dan Licht

Finalized on: 7/12/2006